

Jan. 1846. The temperature of this month was higher by 3° than that of January in any of the many years referred to.

Feb. 1846. The temperature was as high in February 1827 as in this month, and was within 1° of being as high in 1826 and 1829.

The chief feature of the winter was therefore in the high temperature of the month of January, and again, of that and February combined; the difference between the mean of the two months being less than 1°. A check to the rapidly advancing vegetation was given on the 18th of March, upon the night of which and the following, the thermometer at the Botanic Garden, Belfast, fell to 21° Fahrenheit.

XXVII.—*Notice of a new species of Dawsonia.* By ROBERT KAYE GREVILLE, LL.D., F.R.S.E., F.L.S. &c.*

[With a Plate.]

No one can take the most cursory glance at the subject of the present notice without being satisfied that it is distinct from the only other described species, *Dawsonia polytrichioides* of Hooker; and yet it is extremely difficult to draw up such a character as shall distinguish it on paper, if we except the much larger size. The latter feature however is so decided, that practically there can be no hesitation in pronouncing between the two species.

The single specimen which I possess of the new species, which I propose to name *Dawsonia superba*, was sent to me from Australia a few years ago by my friend Augustus Erskine, Esq., Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General in that country.

In the same parcel were some New Zealand plants, but from those with which the *Dawsonia* was associated in the collection, I have little doubt that it, as well as the previously known species, is an Australian plant. My specimen is fully fourteen inches high, whereas the tallest of those of *D. polytrichioides*, as described both by Dr. Robert Brown and Sir W. J. Hooker, do not exceed four inches, including the seta. The *leaves* are an inch in length (nearly three times longer than in *D. polytrichioides*), linear-subulate, less rigid than in the last-named species, and spreading in a more lax manner, spinuloso-dentate, but only toothed at the back of the nerve near the apex. At the lower extremity the very wide membranaceous sheath is of a fine purplish pink colour. *Seta* three-fourths of an inch in length. *Capsule* with the operculum, resembling that of *D. polytrichioides*, but twice as large.

Dawsonia superba; procera, foliis uncialibus, rigidiusculis, sublaxe patentibus. Plate XII.

Hab. Australia.

* Read before the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, March 11, 1847.